

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-13 SSM-03 ACDA-07
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /099 W
-----071927Z 060058 /46

R 070812Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5546

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USUN NEW YORK 626

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0221

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, ET, SF, SU, FT

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN NORTHEAST AFRICA-THE MOZAMBIQUE PERSPECTIVE

REF: STATE 34960

1. OFFICIALS IN MOZAMBIQUE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ARE NOT AS A RULE VERY FORTHCOMING ON GPRM ATTITUDES ON FOREIGN
POLICY ISSUES. EMBASSY'S APPRECIATION OF GPRM'S VIEWS ON THE
SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. GPRM'S PRINCIPAL FOREIGN POLICY CONCERN IS THE SITUATION
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. EVENTS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE AFRICANS AND THE ARABS ARE OF SECONDARY INTEREST.
THIS IS REFLECTED IN THE PRESS. COVERAGE ON THE HORN
IN THE GPRM-CONTROLLED MEDIA IS MINIMAL.

3. GPRM SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA. ALTHOUGH THE GPRM WOULD PREFER
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NOT GET INVOLVED IN ISSUES AFFECTING THE HORN, IF IT CAME
TO CHOSSING SIDES BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA, IT WOULD
ALIGN ITSELF WITH SOMALIA, PARTICULARLY ON QUESTION
DJIBOUTI. SINCE MOZAMBIQUE'S INDEPENDENCE, THE GPRM
HAS ESTABLISHED CLOSE TIES WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY
GOVERNMENT IN SOMALIA, WHICH IT CONSIDERS A "NATURAL
ALLY." SOMALIA WAS ONE OF THE FIRST STATES TO ESTABLISH

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GPRM AND PRESIDENT MACHEL AND PRESIDENT SAID BARRE HAVE MET IN SMALL GATHERINGS ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND PERHAPS THE HORN. THE GPRM'S RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT, DESPITE LATTER'S MARXIST ORIENTATION AND A RECENT THREE DAY VISIT TO MAPUTO BY A MEMBER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, ARE NOT NEARLY AS GOOD AS THOSE WITH SOMALIA. THE GPRM, HOWEVER, HAS REFRAINED FROM EXPRESSING ANY SUPPORT FOR ELF SECESSIONISTS. ON ISSUES BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND THE SUDAN, THE GPRM WOULD PROBABLY SIDE WITH ETHIOPIA. CONTACTS BETWEEN SUDANESE AND MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN ALMOST NON-EXISTENT SINCE FRELIMO TOOK POWER.

4. AFRICANS VA. ARABAS OR CHRISTIAN VS. MOSLEM. THE GPRM DOES NOT VIEW FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES ALONG AFRICAN VS ARAB OR CHRISTIAN VS. MOSLEM LINES. FOR THE GPRM, A GOVERNMENT'S ADHERENCE TO REVOLUTIONARY PRINCIPLES IS MORE IMPORTANT THAT THE ETHNIC BACKGROUND OR RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION OF ITS LEADERS. IN SELECTING ITS FRIENDS, THE GPRM'S MAIN PRE-OCCUPATION IS WHETHER A COUNTRY IS ALIGNED WITH THE SOCIALIST OR COMMUNIST STATES OR WHETHER IT IS IN THE CIPATALIST CAMP.

5. TRANSFER OF THE OAU CAPITAL FROM ETHIOPIA. AS FAR AS WE AWARE, NO GPRM LEADERS HAVE ADVOCATED SHIFTING OAU HEAD-QUARTERS FROM ADDIS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE GPRM OFFICIALS WOULD ENDORSE SUCH A MOVE UNLESS IT ENJOYED THE SUPPORT OF A MAJORITY OF AFRICAN STATES.

6. U.S. RELATION WITH ETHIOPIA. AS FAR AS WE AWARE,
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GPRM HAS NEVER EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS ON U.S. RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA, PROBABLY BECAUSE IF IS NOT AWARE OF THE FULL EXTENT OF OUR RELATIONS WITH NEW ETHIOPIAN REGIME. HOWEVER, GPRM TAKES VERY CYNICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD U.S. OBJECTIVES THROUGHTOUT AFRICA AND WOULD PROBABLY FIND FAULT WITH ANY TYPE OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPAIN GOVERNMENT.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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